



Lake Ridge Schools

II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

With End of Course Assessments becoming a graduation requirement for the classes of 2012 and beyond, it is imperative that Calumet High School addresses all core curricular areas through this project. The primary aim of this project is to increase student academic achievement in all core curricular areas through differentiated instruction and engaged learning. Instructional technology tools and targeted, relevant professional development will provide all core curricular teachers with a valuable set of new tools with which to provide engaging and rigorous course content tied to the Indiana Academic Standards. Students participating in the project will be exposed to increased interactive and hands-on course content which is designed to lead to higher student achievement on standardized testing and higher attendance and graduation rates.

Calumet High School is actively investigating a move toward a New Tech high school model. Equipment and professional development provided by this project will enable more core curriculum teachers to begin utilizing project based instruction and prepare them for the potential transition. Additionally, many of the instructional technology tools provided will open new avenues of opportunity for teachers to collaborate with each other to design cross-curricular activities. Due to the increase of collaborative group projects and engaged learning strategies, students participating in this project will find themselves more at ease with the New Tech model if it is ultimately adopted by the district.

The project will also address high ability students at Lake Ridge Middle School who are taking Algebra I during their eighth grade year. The middle school algebra teachers will receive the same relevant professional development and receive the same instructional technology tools as the core curriculum teachers at Calumet High School. Since part of the project is articulating Algebra I and II curriculum, the middle school teachers will be expected to design and utilize the same engaging and collaborative lesson plans as those students taking Algebra I at CHS.

Evaluation of the project will be performed locally by collecting surveys from students and teachers, as well as classroom walkthroughs by CHS principal, Tim Pivarnik. The surveys will be collected at the beginning of school before teachers start implementing the professional development training and instructional technology tools, and again at the end of the 2009-2010 school year after the teachers have completed training and have had a full semester to integrate the new tools and strategies into the curriculum.

Calumet has partnered with neighboring Griffith High School to tap into their pre-existing framework of technology-infused curriculum. GHS teachers and administrators have been utilizing many of the instructional technology tools that will be provided to CHS classrooms and will share their experiences with CHS teachers to facilitate the process of incorporating these tools into curriculum. CHS and GHS teachers will participate in sustained, on-going collaboration to ensure that the tools and techniques provided through this project continue to lead to increased academic achievement and that students who frequently move between districts receive consistent course content.